

The Secret Behind Good Deeds

By Mansoor Ali Shah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Baba and Mansoor sit under the shade of a big tree in their garden. The afternoon breeze is gentle, and the birds chirp softly.

Mansoor: Baba, today at school, my teacher told us that our deeds depend on our intentions. What does that mean?

Baba: That is a very important lesson, my son. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us that Allah rewards our deeds based on our intentions. Would you like to hear a story about it?

Mansoor: Oh yes, Baba! I love your stories!

Baba: Alright! Once upon a time, there were two boys, Zayd and Omar. Both of them decided to help an old man carry his heavy bags from the market. As they walked, Zayd thought to himself, "I hope people see me and praise me for being kind." But Omar whispered in his heart, "I am doing this to please Allah."

Mansoor: Oh! So they both helped, but they had different thoughts?

Baba: Exactly, my dear. When they reached the old man's house, he smiled and thanked them. Later that day, their teacher at school heard about their kindness. He called both boys in front of the class and said, "MashaAllah! You both did a great job!"

Mansoor: So they both got praised! That means both got rewarded, right?

Baba: That's what it seemed like, but let's think about it deeper. Zayd got what he wanted—people saw him and praised him. But Omar? He did it for Allah, and Allah will reward him in this world and the next. The Prophet ﷺ said, "The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions." If we do something for praise, we might get it. But if we do it for Allah, our reward is much greater.

Mansoor: So Omar's reward is better because Allah's reward never ends?

Baba: Exactly! That is why, whenever we do something, we should ask ourselves, "Am I doing this for Allah?" If we do, then even small actions—like smiling, helping someone, or sharing—become big in the eyes of Allah.

Mansoor: Baba, I want to do everything for Allah! Even when I help Mama or clean my room!

Baba (smiling): That's the spirit, my son. When your intention is pure, even the smallest deeds shine like gold in the sight of Allah.

Mansoor: Alhamdulillah! I will remember that always!